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22 August 1963

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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*South Vietnam: The situation is outwardly calm with the military maintaining tight security under the martial law decree.

[Army commander Major General Tran Van Don has been made overall military commander. Generals have been placed in control of Saigon and Hué. The American Consul in Hué has reported growing anti-American feeling in that city stemming from hostility toward US-equipped troops]

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[US officials have been told that the martial law decree was prompted by concern over spreading disorders and troop disaffection. The government also is seeking to justify the crackdown on the Buddhists on grounds of Viet Cong penetration of the Buddhist movement. Despite the reported seizure of Viet Cong weapons and other "proof" in pagodas, there is no firm evidence of a significant Communist role in the Buddhist campaign]

The well-coordinated moves by the military throughout the country reflect prior planning. Some Vietnamese officials have claimed that President Diem took action at the request of a group of generals. Statements being broadcast in the name of the military strongly reflect the previously expressed views of Diem's brother Nhu.

Current relationships between the military, Diem and Nhu remain unclear. Nhu is known to have met recently with the generals and harangued them on the need

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for firm action by the government. Nhu also has implied that he would seize control from his brother if conditions warranted. It is possible that some key officers are now working with Nhu.

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UN-Yemen: The UN Observation Mission in Yemen is running into serious trouble owing to the resignation of General Von Horn, the difficulty of financing the mission, and growing discouragement on the part of U Thant himself.

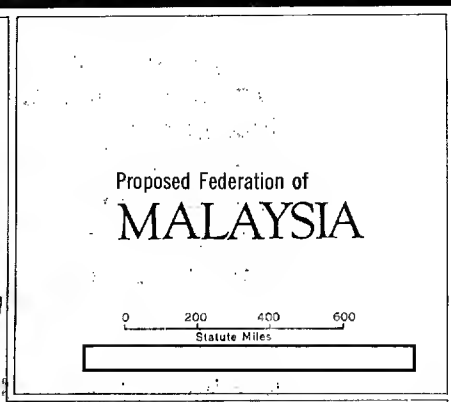
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Von Horn, who has long been disturbed by the limited scope and size of the UN mission he commands, has submitted his resignation, apparently as a direct result of a rebuke which he received from U Thant last weekend. The secretary general expects serious trouble from Von Horn, who is threatening to "blow the lid off the whole operation."

A senior UN official reports U Thant is "rather gloomy" about the present prospects for the UN operation. Saudi Arabia has indicated that it is willing to pay its share for an additional two months of the mission expenses, but the UAR has not expressed its position.

The secretary general thinks that it may be necessary to recommend to the Security Council that the mission be withdrawn unless the UAR is willing to pay its share of expenses.

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Indonesia-Malaysia: (Indonesia apparently is stepping up paramilitary and political action operations against Malaysia.)

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(Indonesia continues to insist that the Indonesian and Philippine observers who are to accompany the UN survey teams in Sarawak and North Borneo be given a broader role than the UK and the UN envisage. Jakarta is also trying to increase the number of such observers.)

(Although the survey is scheduled to begin today, the Indonesian foreign minister has stated that the observer problems must be solved first. The Philippine stand on the observer issue is in line with that of Indonesia.)

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(Indonesian officials reportedly feel that ample opportunities exist to bring about Malaysia's eventual disintegration, even if they are unable to block its formation.)

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Finland: [A senior Foreign Ministry official has told Ambassador Rowan categorically that Finland is not negotiating with the Soviets to purchase missiles of any type.]

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[The official referred to the fact that during the negotiations last January for reinterpretation of the 1947 peace treaty to enable Finland to acquire defensive missiles, the Finns assured Britain--as a signatory--that they would purchase these weapons equally from East and West. He added that the British would be informed of any negotiations with the Soviets.]

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Colombia: The Communist-dominated labor unions, hoping to take advantage of widespread labor unrest, plan to form a national labor confederation and hold a nationwide strike during the week of 26 August. The Communists are eager to take some action in reprisal for the severe measures the government has taken against the illegal strike of the petroleum workers' union. They may encounter a reaction against the move because of general public discontent with the subversive influence of the Communists in the petroleum industry and popular support for the government's anti-strike actions.

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*Bolivia: President Victor Paz Estenssoro requested the resignation of the entire cabinet on 21 August, probably as a ploy to avoid impending congressional interpellation of certain members of his cabinet. He may also use this opportunity to replace those who have been only lukewarm in supporting the government in the current mine controversy. Reportedly only the ministers of mines, labor, defense, and peasant affairs will be replaced in the new cabinet which is likely to be announced either today or tomorrow. [REDACTED]

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*Jordan: Yesterday's Jordanian-Soviet agreement to establish diplomatic relations reflects King Husayn's dissatisfaction with US policy in the Middle East. Husayn believes the US has become overly friendly with Nasir. The King, who envies Nasir's success in obtaining aid from both the US and USSR, undoubtedly hopes to get Soviet economic assistance. [REDACTED]

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